

AUG 23 2011

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Senate

State of Minnesota

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

August 17, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C.
20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm writing to you today to discuss the benefits of the AT&T and T-Mobile merger that you are currently reviewing. I believe the merger will have a positive impact on the overall economy and the workers in our state.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, AT&T has promised to invest an additional \$8 billion in expanding its 4G LTE network. As a result, more than 97 percent of Americans will have access to high-speed wireless broadband (as opposed to 80 percent under the companies' plans without the merger). My district will be one of the newly-covered communities, and I know access to wireless technology will give our businesses the ability to use important online tools that will help them operate, expand and market their products and services.

As a former union leader, I believe it is also worth noting that this merger will be good for the thousands of employees of T-Mobile. For years T-Mobile's German parent company has kept these workers from organizing a union. In contrast, AT&T is home to the largest unionized workforce in the U.S. wireless industry. This merger is expected to create up to 96,000 jobs. Some of those jobs will be for AT&T, as it expands its workforce to help build and operate its larger network. These new employees, and the ones from T-Mobile that will join the AT&T family immediately upon approval of this merger, will all have access to union representation. This means better wages, better health care benefits, and more job security.

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For that reason, if no other, I urge you to publicly support this merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Bakk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bakk".

Thomas M. Bakk,
DFL Caucus Leader
Senate District, 6

CC:

Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn